

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03
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-----057593 051708Z /43

R 051420Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9705
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TU, EG, LY
SUBJ: MORE REACTION TO CAGLAYANGIL'S CAIRO VISIT

REF: ANKARA 8757

1. SUMMARY: PRIMIN DEMIREL AND OPPOSITION LEADER ECEVIT
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DECEMBER 2 JOINED PUBLIC DEBATE ON FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT TO
EGYPT. DEMIREL DEFENDED VISIT AS BEING CONSISTENT WITH WHAT HE
TERMED LONG STANDING GOT "PRO-ARAB" POLICY. ECEVIT SAID GOVERN-
MENT'S DISARRAY ON SUBJECT OF VISIT DAMAGED TURKEY'S WORLD IMAGE. HE
ALSO QUESTIONED SADAT'S MOTIVES FOR HIS INITIATIVE, IMPLYING IT
RESULTED FROM US PRESSURE. PRESS COVERAGE OVER WEEKEND CONCENTRATED
MORE ON VISIT THAN ON THE DISPUTE IT HAD CREATED. MOREOVER, DOMESTIC

EVENTS TENDED TO PUSH STORY OFF FRONT PAGES. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON VISIT
CONTAINS NOTHING STRIKING BUT SEEMS TO MEET MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
OF BOTH COUNTRIES ON MID-EAST AND CYPRUS ISSUES. CAGLAYANGIL ON
HIS RETURN REITERATED POSITION THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT GET
INVOLVED IN INTER-ARAB DISPUTES. WHETHER GOT WILL REMAIN
UNINVOLVED PROBABLY DEPENDS ON ATTITUDE OF LIBYA AND IRAQ. IF
RADICAL ARAB STATES DO NOT FORCE THE ISSUE, IT WILL LIKELY FADE AS
DOMESTIC ISSUE. ONE UNFORTUNATE RESULT OF EPISODE MAY BE AN OVERLY
CAUTIOUS CAGLAYANGIL. ECEVIT'S CRITICISM SUGGESTS FURTHER BASIS FOR
CONCERN THAT HIS PRIMARY TEST FOR SUPPORTABLE FOREIGN POLICIES MAY
BE THAT THEY NOT BE INFLUENCED BY OUTSIDE POWERS. END SUMMARY

2. THE PUBLIC DEBATE ABOUT FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT TO EGYPT
WAS JOINED DECEMBER 2 BY PRIMIN DEMIREL AND OPPOSITION LEADER
REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT. DEMIREL,
SPEAKING TO JOURNALISTS, DEFENDED GOT MIDDLE EAST POLICY AND
CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT. DEMIREL SAID TURKEY HAD SUPPORTED THE
"RIGHTEOUS" ARAB POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST EVER SINCE THE CREATION
OF ISRAEL. TURKEY MAINTAINS, HE SAID, THAT SETTLEMENT OF MIDDLE EAST
PROBLEM WILL ONLY COME WITH TOTAL WITHDRAWAL BY ISRAEL FROM THE
TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967, WITH THE FOUNDATION OF A PALESTINIAN
STATE, AND WITH THEIR RETURN OF JERUSALEM TO ITS PREVIOUS STATUS.

3. DEMIREL SAID THAT BOTH DEPRIM MINS TURKES AND ERBAKAN AGREE
WITH THIS POLICY WHICH HAD BEEN EMBODIED IN THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM.
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HE ALSO SAID TURKEY IS NOT PARTY TO THE DISPUTE AMONG THE ARABS BUT
RATHER SUPPORTS THE ARABS IN THEIR DISPUTE WITH ISRAEL. DEMIREL
PLAYED DOWN INTERNAL GOVERNMENT DISAGREEMENT OVER CAGLAYANGIL'S
VISIT, ADMITTING ITS EXISTENCE BUT SUGGESTING THAT IT WAS NOT VERY
SERIOUS. IN RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS THAT CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT HAD
BEEN UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION, DEMIREL SAID
THE FOMIN REPRESENTS THE GOVERNMENT THE MOMENT HE ASSUMES HIS
DUTY. " WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION IS NOT REQUIRED FOR HIS VISITS TO
FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND AS LONG AS CAGLAYANGIL IS FONMIN OF THE
TURKISH REPUBLIC, EVERY CONTACT HE MAKES IS ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNMENT."

4. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT
DECEMBER 2, JOURNALISTS ASKED HIS VIEWS ON CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT TO
EGYPT. ECEVIT SAID THAT DEMIREL'S ASSERTION THAT THE VISIT IS CON-
SISTENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM WAS BELIED BY PUBLIC CRITISM OF
THE VISIT BY COALITION PARTNERS AND THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, JUSTICE
PARTY (JP) SENATOR INAN. ECEVIT SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DISARRAY
ON THE VISIT DAMAGED TURKEY'S WORLD IMAGE.

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5. ECEVIT THEN VOLUNTEERED HIS TENTATIVE VIEW OF EGYPTIAN PRESID
ENT
SADAT'S NEW INITIATIVE. THE HEALTHIST SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS IN
THE MIDDLE EAST, HE SAID, WOULD BE THOSE FOUND WITHOUT THE INTER-
VENTION OR PRESSURE OF THE BIG POWERS. HE THEN ASKED RHETORICALLY
IF SADAT'S INITIATIVE FITTED THAT DESCRIPTION, OR CONVERSELY, IF IT
WAS THE RESULT OF BIG POWER PRESSURE. POINTING TO EGYPT'S PRECARIOUS
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ECONOMIC SITUATION AND TO THE NEED FOR MASSIVE US ASSISTANCE, ECEVIT
CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT SADAT IS ACTING IN

RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL INFLUENCES RATHER THAN IN RESPONSE TO A DESIRE TO SAVE THE MIDDLE EAST FROM SUCH OUTSIDE INFLUENCES. ECEVIT CONCLUDED THAT IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE TO WONDER WHETHER CAGLAYANGIL'S BEHAVIOR IS INFLUENCED BY TURKEY'S SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

6. MOST WEEKEND NEWS COVERAGE OF CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT FOCUSED ON HIS ACTIVITIES IN CAIRO, INCLUDING HIS MEETING WITH SADAT, RATHER THAN THE DOMESTIC DEBATE OVER THE VISIT. THE DECMEBER 3 EDITIO
N
OF SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN, HOWEVER, CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE STORY CLAIMING THAT BOTH ERBAKAN AND TURKES HAVE DEMANDED CAGLAYANGIL'S DISMISSAL. NO EVIDENCE WAS OFFERED AND ON OTHER PAPER CARRIED THE REPORT. THE APPROACHING MUNICIPAL ELECTONS AND A FLARE-UP OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LARGELY REMOVED THE SUBJECT FROM FRONT PAGES DECEMBER 4 AND 5, EXCEPT FOR FACTURAL REPORTING OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. (AN EXCEPTION, PRO-GOVERNMENT TERCUMAN, DEC 5 CARRIES A STORY REPORTIN THAT SADAT ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT TURKEY AND WILL DO SO IN THE NEAR FUTURE.)

7. A QUICK READING OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (NICOSIA FIBIS 141230Z) REVEALS NOTHING PARTICULARLY NEW. THE PASSAES CONCERNING TURKISH SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S INITIATIVE AND THE EGYPTIAN VIEW OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION SEEM PARTICULARLY CAREFULLY FORMULATED TO MEET THE MINIMUM DEMANDS OF EGYPT IN THE FIRST CASE AND TURKEY IN THE SECOND.

8. CAGLAYANGIL TOLD JOURNALISTS UPON HIS RETURN TO TURKEY DECEMBER 4 THAT HIS VISIT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ITS PRIMARY AIM OF REVIVING THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TURKEY AND EGYPT. HE ALSO ECHOED THE ATTITUDE EXPRESSED BY DEMIREL DECEMBER 2, IE., TURKEY WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP HER BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ALL ARAB COUNTRIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND WILL NOT BECOME A PARTY TO INTER-ARAB DISPUTES.

9. COMMENT: WHETHER DEMIREL AND CAGLAYANGIL WILL REALIZE THEIR EXPRESSED DESIRE NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN INTER-ARAB DISPUTES IWLL MOST LIKELY DEPEND ON THE REACTION OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF IRAQ AND LIBYA. UNLESS THOSE GOVERNMENTS CHOOSE TO MAKE CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT TO EGYPT A MAJOR ISSUE(AND OUR PRLIMINARY IMPRESSION IS THAT THEY ARE NOT DOING SO), WE BELIEVE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS RAISED BY CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT WILL FADE FAIRLY QUICKLY. WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT CAGLAYANGIL, AS A RESULT OF THIS EXPERIENCE, MAY BECOME EVEN MORE CAUTIOUS THAT IN THE PAST ABOUT TAKING FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVE S.

WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED BY THE IMPLICATIONS OF ECEVIT'S CRITICISM OF SADAT'S INITIATIVE. AS EXPRESSED TO JOURNALISTS DECEMBER 2, THE MOST IMPORTANT TEST ECEVIT APPLIES TO ANY FOREIGN POLICY IS NOT THAT IT BE BENEFICIAL TO THE NATION BUT RATHER THAT IT NOT BE ONE

THAT WAS INFLUENCED BY AN OUTSIDE POWER.

10 WE HOPE TO GET A RUN-DOWN FROM MFA ON ITS VIEW OF CAGLAYANGIL'S
VISIT IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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